



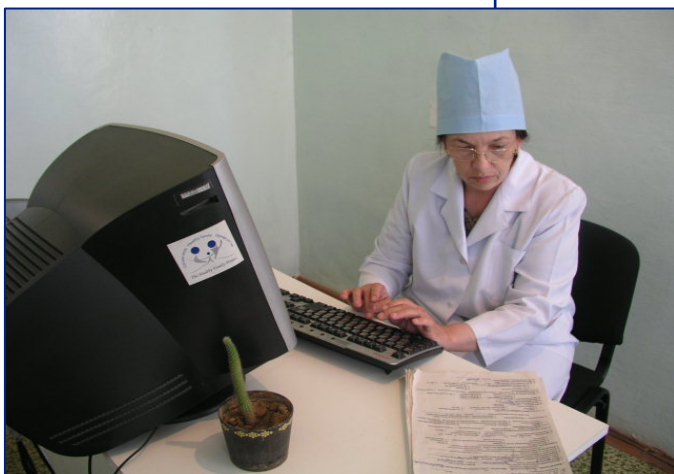
**USAID**  
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**UZBEKISTAN**

## FIRST PERSON

# Computers Alter Health Care Planning

**Health manager uses facts to plan maternal and child health care in her rayon.**



*Dr. Tudaeva is able to base her decisions on facts, thanks to the computerized database.  
Photo: Project HOPE*

**USAID helps introduce a WHO-recommended database and software to collect, store, and analyze health care data, and provide facts for decisions on the improvements in health care.**

In October 2005, Mamlakat Tudaeva, the deputy head doctor of Denau Rayon, Surkhanadarya Oblast underwent a training course organized by the USAID and Project HOPE Healthy Family program. The course taught the application of the WHO-recommended BABIES matrix as an instrument on improving the quality of health care for women and children. Doctor Tudaeva has been working in this position for more than 10 years and has tremendous experience, however, she was surprised when her outlook began to change after the USAID course.

Denau is the most densely populated rayon in Surkhandarya Oblast. Medical assistance to women and children is rendered through a network of three maternity hospitals and over 90 primary level healthcare facilities. Every day Dr. Tudaeva has to analyze a huge volume of information, make organizational decisions, identify problems, and search for ways to improve the quality of care. All of the statistical information on the rayon was gathered manually, and it took a lot of time and effort to process the information.

The USAID seminar showed Dr. Tudaeva that there is a simpler and more efficient way to do her work. The USAID program introduced her to a database to register birth rate and child mortality on the rayon level. This could relieve Dr. Tudaeva from routine collection of information, calculation of indicators, and, most importantly, provide the opportunity to base decisions on facts.

To start using the computerized database, USAID provided a computer with all the necessary software, while rayon department allocated a room and a staff position for managing the database. Tudaeva also learned to work with the database and says that "today no other person in the rayon knows the database better than me." The USAID program continued to help Dr. Tudaeva in mastering the database, data analysis, and planning the activities based on facts with the use of the WHO-recommended programs.

Now not only Dr. Tudaeva, but also other specialists in the rayon department of health routinely use the data produced by the database to make decisions. "Because of the database and BABIES matrix we were able to carry out in-depth analysis the situation in the rayon, plan the activities competently and effectively manage the resources, which in the end has allowed us to improve the quality of rendering care to women and children," says doctor Mamlakat Tudaeva.